GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:512
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2014
POLLUTION IN LAKES AND RIVERS
Sharma Shri Jugal Kishore

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of lakes and rivers which are not covered under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) have been polluted due to discharge of waste, garbage etc.;

(b) if so, the details of lakes and stretches of rivers identified as most polluted, State-wise including Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) whether the Government proposes to initiate any action plan for conservation of lakes and the rivers not covered under NRCP; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds earmarked and allocated for the purpose, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a)to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 512 to be answered on Wednesday, the 13th August, 2014 on Pollution in Lakes and Rivers by Shri Jugal Kishore

(a) & (b) Discharge of untreated and partially treated wastewater and dumping of solid waste from cities/towns constitute a major source of pollution for rivers and lakes. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified 150 polluted stretches along various rivers in the country based on BOD (Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand) levels, a key indicator of organic pollution. The State-wise details are at Annexure. No river stretch in Jammu & Kashmir has been identified as polluted as per the CPCB Report.

It is the responsibility of the State Governments/concerned local bodies to set up proper facilities for collection and treatment of sewage being generated and ensure that untreated sewage does not fall into the rivers and other water bodies, thereby polluting them. This Ministry is supplementing efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and NGRBA (National Ganga River Basin Authority) programmes, for implementation of projects on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. Various pollution abatement schemes taken up under these programmes, inter-alia, include interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, setting up of electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development. NRCP & NGRBA programmes presently cover 48 polluted stretches of 42 rivers in 199 towns spread over 21 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs.10716.45 crore. Till end of March 2014, Rs.5097.50 crore have been released to the State Governments for implementation of various pollution abatement schemes and sewage treatment capacity of 4957.98 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far under the two programmes.

In order to identify polluted and degraded lakes across the country, a study was carried out at the instance of Planning Commission in the year 2003 and 62 lakes were identified requiring conservation and restoration. These included 4 lakes in Jammu & Kashmir, namely Sheshnag, Surinsar, Mansar and Mirgund. All the State Governments and Union Territories were requested to prioritize lakes in their jurisdiction for financial assistance.

For conservation and management of polluted and degraded lakes in urban and semi-urban areas of the country, this Ministry has been implementing the scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) on cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. Different conservation activities under NLCP include core components of interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater, catchment area treatment, shoreline protection, in-lake treatment, etc. Non core activities include lake front eco-development and public participation. The scheme presently covers 62 lakes in 14 States, sanctioned at a total cost of Rs.1041.96 crore. An amount of Rs.573.873 crore has been released till March, 2014 for implementation of projects under NLCP. The National Wetlands Conservation Programme (NWCP) has also been implemented by this Ministry under which financial assistance amounting to Rs.133.64 crore has been provided till March, 2014 for conservation and management of 80 identified wetlands. Under these two programmes, conservation works have been taken up in 8 lakes and wetlands in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. These include Surinsar and Mansar (identified earlier in 2003) as well as Dal lake, Wullar lake, Tso-Morari, Pangong Tsar, Hokersar and Tisgul Tso & Chisul Marshes.

To avoid overlap and promote better synergies, NLCP has been merged in February, 2013 with the scheme of NWCP, into one

integrated scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA).

(c) & (d) Proposals for conservation of rivers and lakes received from the State Governments from time to time are considered for financial assistance under NRCP, NGRBA and NPCA based on pollution status, prioritization of water bodies, conformity with the guidelines of the respective programmes and availability of funds.